THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Petroleum Sector has been delicensed from June, 1998. As a result, now oil companies are free to maintain their installed capacities flexible depending on demand/supply scenario.

(b) The indigenous crude from the Assam Oil Fields is being used by Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Barauni Refineries.

(c) and (d) Oil PSUs have been advised to take necessary action to strengthen the security.

(e) The quantity of crude oil imported during the last 3 years were as follows:—

Year	Quantity in MMT
1995-96	27.34
1996-97	33.90
1997-98	34.49 (Provisional)

As per the Oil Economy Budget (R.E.) for 1998-99, the quantity of crude oil likley to be imported is to the tune of 35.226 MMT.

Private Agencies in Oil Fields

1042. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Economic Times dated 13th February, 1999 under the caption "Private oil fields gushing but Government blocks contracts"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Due to certain observations made by the CAG on the award of discovered fields for private participation, the policy is under review.

Foreign investment in Oil Refineries

1043. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to attract more foreign investment in oil refineries; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The present gudelines for issue of LOIs for setting up of the refineries are as under:—

(i) In the refinery sector in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA), refineries where JV with PSUs Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been limited to 26% (PSU 26% and balance 48% public equity) and where the JV partner is a private Indian Company, FDI has been limited to 49% of total equity.

(ii) For EOU refineries 100% FDI is permitted.

देश में तेल की खोज

1044. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उन महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों के नाम क्या हैं जहां इस समय तेल की खोज की जा रही है;

(ख) क्या संपूर्ण पेट्रोलियम क्षेत्र को पुनर्गठित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या प्रत्येक महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र में तेल की खोज संबंधी प्रयासों में तेजी लाये जाने का विचार है,

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(च) वे नए क्षेत्र कौन-से हैं जहां पर तेल खोज संबंधी कार्य के शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है; और

(छ) ऐसे तेल क्षेत्रों से वर्ष वार कितने परिमाण में तेल निकाले जाने की संभावना है?